



Magnolia Books

A note to begin

The books listed here are good and beautiful. Some are focused on fostering an appreciation for the natural world, while others present particularly positive images of family life and relationships. A few are simply fun and playful in their language and illustrations. They explore themes such as the cultivation of virtue, what it means live an authentically human life, and how to be a true friend.

There are a variety of types of books listed here, including picture books, introductory chapter books for emerging readers, and longer novels. They can be enjoyed in various ways by different members of the family. A longer chapter book can serve as an excellent read-aloud, even for a reader who might not be quite ready to read it on her own. A beautiful picture book can be savored by the whole family, from toddler to teen. A shorter chapter book can be an encouraging and manageable entrance into the vast world of literature for a new reader. Use these books as you see fit to enhance your family's educational culture.

Please understand that we have made an effort to review the books contained herein but cannot guarantee that they will be completely in alignment with every family's personal standards for acceptable content. As parents, you are the primary educators of your children and the decision of what constitutes appropriate literature ultimately rests in your capable hands. We hope that this list introduces your family to new authors, characters, and stories that will enrich your lives.

The Books

Picture Books

The picture books listed here cover various subjects. Some convey scientific information in a beautiful, poetic way and others share a fictional story that will encourage, delight, or inspire. We wholeheartedly encourage you to enjoy these books together as a family. As C.S. Lewis said, “a children’s story which is enjoyed only by children is a bad children’s story.” These good children’s stories will appeal to readers of all ages.

Andersen, Hans Christian (with illustrations by Rachel Isadora) *The Little Match Girl*

Aston, Dianna Hutts Nature Books including *A Butterfly is Patient; An Egg is Quiet; A Nest is Noisy*; etc.

Barklem, Jill *The Complete Brambly Hedge*

Bemelmans, Ludwig *Madeline*

Bradfield, Jolly Roger *Pickle-Chiffon Pie*

Brett, Jan *The Mitten*

Brown, Margaret Wise *Runaway Bunny, The Golden Egg Book, Home for a Bunny*

Brumbeau, Jeff *The Quiltmaker’s Gift*

Burton, Virginia Lee *The Little House; Maybelle the Cable Car; Katy and the Big Snow*

Carle, Eric *Pancakes, Pancakes!*

Chaucer, Geoffrey (with illustrations by Barbara Cooney) *Chanticleer and the Fox*

Craft, Charlotte *King Midas and the Golden Touch*

Cooney, Barbara *Miss Rumphius*

DePaola, Tomie *Legend of the Bluebonnet; Legend of the Indian Paintbrush; Legend of the Poinsettia; Strega Nona*

Eliot, T.S. *Old Possum’s Book of Practical Cats*

Freeman, Don *Corduroy*

Fox, Dorothea Warren *Miss Twiggley’s Tree*

Galdone, Paul *The Little Red Hen; The Gingerbread Boy; The Monkey and The Crocodile*

Gibbons, Gail *Monarch Butterfly*

Hoban, Russell *Bread and Jam for Frances*

Henkes, Kevin *Chester's Way*

Hoberman, Mary Ann *A House is a House for Me; The Seven Silly Eaters*

Johnston, Tony and dePaola, Tomie *The Quilt Story*

Keats, Ezra Jack *The Little Drummer Boy*

Kessler, Leonard *Mr. Pine's Purple House*

Lear, Edward *The Owl and the Pussycat*

McBratney, Sam *Guess How Much I Love You*

McCloskey, Robert *Blueberries for Sal; One Morning in Maine*

McLerran, Alice *Roxaboxen*

Miller, J.P. *The House that Jack Built*

Muth, Jon *The Three Questions*

Payne, Emily *Katy No-Pocket*

Peet, Bill *Hubert's Hair-Raising Adventure; The Ant and the Elephant*

Priceman, Marjorie *How to Make an Apple Pie and See the World*

Provensen, Alice and Martin *The Year at Maple Hill Farm*

Rathman, Peggy *Officer Buckles and Gloria*

Silver, Donald M. *One Small Square* (series)

Steig, William *Doctor DeSoto*

Stevenson, Robert Louis *A Child's Garden of Verses*

Tudor, Tasha *Around the Year; A Time to Keep, A is for Annabelle*

Potter, Beatrix *The Complete Tales*

Waber, Bernard *Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile*

Wilkins, Eloise *Stories*

Yolen, Jane *Owl Moon*

Zelinsky, Paul *Rapunzel*

First Chapter Books

These books will be particularly appealing to readers who are ready to move into more advanced stories and vocabularies beyond introductory “easy reader” type books. Of course, these books can also be read aloud, either by an adult or an older child. They are useful for capturing the imagination of a newly proficient reader and building a life-long habit of reading excellent books.

Avi *Prairie School*

Baum, Frank *The Wizard of Oz*

Bearn, Emily *Tumtum & Nutmeg: The Rose Cottage Tales*

Brisley, Joyce Lankester *Milly-Molly-Mandy Stories*

Cleary, Beverly *Beezus and Ramona*

DiCamillo, Kate *Mercy Watson* (series)

Estes, Eleanor *The Hundred Dresses; The Moffats*

Fritz, Jean *The Cabin Faced West*

Fryer, Jane *Mary Frances* (series)

Hale, Shannon *The Princess in Black* (series)

Henry, Marguerite *Misty of Chincoteague*

Herriot, James *James Herriot's Treasury for Children*

Klimo, Kate *Dog Diaries* (series)

Lang, Andrew *The Blue Fairy Book*

Lingren, Astrid *Pippi Longstocking* (series); *The Children of Noisy Village* (series)

Lovelace, Maud *Betsy-Tacy*

MacDonald, Betty *Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle*

MacDonald, George *The Light Princess*

Milne, A.A. *Winnie the Pooh*

Parish, Peggy *Amelia Bedelia*

Selden, George *The Cricket in Times Square*

Taylor, Sydney *All of a Kind Family*

Warner, Gertrude Chandler *Boxcar Children* (series, originals)

West, Jerry *Happy Hollisters* (series)

White, E.B. *Charlotte's Web*, *Stuart Little*, *The Trumpet of the Swan*

Wilder, Laura Ingalls *Little House* (series)

Wiley, Melissa *The Prairie Thief*

Later Chapter Books/Novels

These longer books with more complex themes and character development are ideal for older, confident readers to enjoy independently or to be used as a family read-aloud. Audiobook versions are available for many of these titles, which are often a helpful tool for increasing read-aloud time in the family.

Aiken, Joan *The Wolves of Willoughby Chase*

Alcott, Louisa May *Little Women*

Babbitt, Natalie *Tuck Everlasting*

Birdsall, Jeanne *The Penderwicks* (series)

Brink, Carol *Caddie Woodlawn*; *Baby Island*

Burnett, Frances Hodgson *The Secret Garden*; *A Little Princess*

Carroll, Lewis *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*

Cushman, Karen *Catherine, Called Birdy*

DiCamillo, Kate *The Tale of Despereaux*; *Because of Winn Dixie*

Edwards, Julie Andrews *The Last of the Really Great Whangdoodles*

Enright, Elizabeth *Gone-Away Lake* (series); *The Saturdays* (series)

Fisher, Dorothy *Understood Betsy*

Gates, Doris *Blue Willow*

Graham, Kenneth *The Wind in the Willows*

Hoberman, Mary Ann *Strawberry Hill*

Hunt, Irene *Across Five Aprils*

Keene, Carolyn *Nancy Drew Mysteries* (originals)

Konigsburg, E. L. *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*

L'Engle, Madeleine *A Wrinkle in Time*

Lenski, Lois *Strawberry Girl; Texas Tomboy*

Lewis, C.S. *The Narnia Chronicles* (series)

Lin, Grace *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*

Lowell, Susan *I am Lavina Cumming*

Lowry, Lois *Number the Stars*

MacLachlan, Patricia *Sarah, Plain and Tall*

Montgomery, L.M. *Anne of Green Gables* (series)

Nesbit, E. *The Railway Children; The Story of the Treasure Seekers*

O'Brien, Robert *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH*

O'Dell, Scott *Island of the Blue Dolphins*

Sewell, Anna *Black Beauty*

Smith, S.D. *The Green Ember* (series)

Spyri, Johanna *Heidi*

Stewart, Trenton *The Mysterious Benedict Society* (series)

Streatfeild, Noel *Ballet Shoes*

Thomasma, Kenneth *Doe Sia: Bannock Girl and the Handcart Pioneers*

Tolkien, J.R.R. *The Hobbit*

Terhune, Albert *Lad: A Dog*

Travers, P.L. *Mary Poppins*

Van Stockum, Hilda *The Mitchell series* and *The Bantry Bay series*

Wells, Helen *Cherry Ames* (series)

Wiggin, Kate *Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm*